Mission: Rescue

A DETAILED STUDY of a controversial operation in the Vietnam war, The Raid, by Benjamin Schemmer, will be published early in 1976 by Harper & Row. The subject is the effort to rescue American prisoners from a North Vietnamese prison at Sontay, 18 miles from Hanoi, in November 1970. The top-secret mission caused considerable controversy after it was discovered that the prisoners were not there.

Schemmer, editor of the Armed Forces Journal, has uncovered ways in which the raid succeeded that were never publicly discussed, according to his editor at Harper & Row, M. S. Wyeth Jr.

"Comparing the book with press accounts of the Sontay raid, it is apparent that only 10 to 20 per cent of how and why this operation was conducted and what it really accomplished has ever been made public," Wyeth said.

Scheinmer interviewed hundreds of persons concerned with the raid, and his account covers the story on all levels, from the White House briefing down to the actual operation in the field.